BEFORE THE SHORELINES HEARINGS BOARD STATE OF WASHINGTON

1	MARK HOLLAND d/b/a PUGET SOUND AQUACULTURE,)) SHB NO. 86-22
2	Appellant,)
3	v.) ORDER DENYING MOTION
4	KITSAP COUNTY,) FOR RECONSIDERATION
5	Respondent,)
6	and)
7	YUKON HARBOR CONCERNED CITIZENS.)
8	Intervenor-Respondent.)
9		;`
10	Pesnondent Vukon Harbo	concerned Citizens/ Motion f

Respondent Yukon Harbor Concerned Citizens' Motion for Reconsideration of the Board's Final Order in this matter was filed with (received by) the Board on August 25, 1992.

WAC 461-08-220(1)(b) provides that any party may file a petition (motion) for reconsideration with the Board "within eight days of mailing of the final decision". Conformance with RCW 34.05.470(1) requires that the eight day period be extended to "ten" days.

The Board's FINAL ORDER in this matter was entered and mailed on August 13, 1992. The prescribed ten day period terminated on August 23, 1992. Since that day was a Sunday, it is excluded in the computation of time. (WAC 461-08-250). Accordingly, the last permissible day for filing (the day of receipt in the Board's office) was Monday, August 24, 1992.

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ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION SHB 86-22

(1)

Reconsideration was filed with the Board on August 25, 1992, which is not within the ten day period allowed, the Board: FINDS that Yukon Harbor Concerned Citizen's Motion for Consideration was not filed in a timely manner and, accordingly, DENIES the Motion. Done this 29 day of August, 1992. SHORELINES HEARINGS BOARD ZIMMERMAN, ANNETTE S. MCGEE. JOHN H. BUCKWALTER Administrative Law Judge ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION

(2)

SHB 86-22

Since Respondent Yukon Harbor Concerned Citizens' Motion for

BEFORE THE SHORELINES HEARINGS BOARD 1 STATE OF WASHINGTON 2 MARK HOLLAND d/b/a PUGET SOUND AQUACULTURE, SHB NO. 86-22 3 Appellant, 4 v. FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, 5 CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND KITSAP COUNTY. ORDER ON REMAND 6 Respondent, 7 and 8 YUKON HARBOR CONCERNED 9 CITIZENS, 10 Intervenor-Respondent. 11 PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND 12 13

On November 19, 1985, Appellant Mark Holland, d/b/a Puget Sound Aquaculture, applied to Kitsap County for a Substantial Development Permit (SDP) for the placement of ten (10) submerged salmon net-pens near the middle of Yukon Harbor, between Blake Island and the Kitsap peninsula, and approximately 3/4 of a mile from the Kitsap shore.

The Kitsap County Board of Commissioners denied the permit on April 21, 1986, and appellant appealed to the Shorelines Hearings Board.

After a de novo hearing, the Board issued its <u>Final Findings of Fact</u>, <u>Conclusions of Law</u>, <u>and Order</u> on July 7, 1987, reversing the Board of Commissioners and remanding the matter to Kitsap County for

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FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (1) SHB NO. 86-22 issuance of an SDP with conditions. <u>Mark Holland</u>, <u>d/b/a Puget Sound</u>

Aquaculture v. Kitsap County and Yukon Harbor Concerned Citizens, SHB
86-22 (1987).

Petitions for Review of SHB 86-22 were filed in the Kitsap County Superior Court by Kitsap County on or about July 24, 1987, and by Yukon Harbor Concerned Citizens on or about July 28, 1987.

After hearing oral argument on July 25, 1989, the Court, visiting Judge Gary Velie presiding, by memorandum opinion issued March 1, 1990, remanded the matter to the SHB for further evidentiary proceedings to determine two issues which will be discussed below.

The Order of Remand was appealed by Holland to the Court of Appeals, Division II, which, on March 6, 1991, denied review at that time. On July 26, 1991, appellant filed a Request For Hearing Pursuant to Remand with this Board.

HEARING ON REMAND

The Hearing on Remand was held in the City of Port Orchard,
Kitsap County, on May 18, 1992, with Board Members Annette McGee,
O'Dean Williamson, and David Wolfenbarger in attendance,
Administrative Law Judge John H. Buckwalter presiding. Mr. Harold
Zimmerman, Board Chairman, who was unable to attend the hearing,
participated in the Board's decision after reviewing the record.
Proceedings were recorded by Kathy Juntila, Certified Shorthand
Reporter, and were also taped. Following this hearing, by agreement
of the parties and the Board, the hearing was recessed until June 10,
1992, for the presentation of further evidence.

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (2) SHB NO. 86-22 FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND SHB NO. 86-22

At the hearing, none of the parties elected to present any new evidence by witnesses or exhibits relevant to the above stated issue but chose, instead, to have the issue treated as a matter of law to be decided by the Board after review of their extensive briefs.

However, the Court did not order a reargument and reconsideration of evidence already in the record (which would have resulted if either party had filed for reconsideration after the Board issued its first decision) but ordered "further evidentiary proceedings" for the Board to evaluate and reach a decision on the prescribed issues.

III

The parties, by failing to produce new evidence, have by implication agreed that the evidence already presented, contrary to the remand findings, was sufficient for the Board to reach conclusions. Accordingly, this Board, having reviewed the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in its original decision, comes to these

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW - FIRST ISSUE

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The Board, having no new evidence to consider and having reviewed its original Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law based on the evidence presented in its first hearing relevant to the first issue presented by the Court, reaffirms and adopts those Findings of Fact including:

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parties, the June 10, 1992 hearing was cancelled and the parties 2 rested upon the evidence already presented at the May 18, 1992 3 Consequently, because the Board had taken no action toward establishment of its final order pending the anticipated evidence to 5 be produced at the June hearing, our 90 day target limit for 6 production of a final order is set at September 10, 1992, 90 days from 7 the anticipated June 10 hearing date. 8 At the May 18, 1992 hearing, witnesses were sworn and testified, 9 exhibits were examined, and argument and briefs of counsel were 10 From these the Board makes these considered. 11 FINDINGS OF FACTS-FIRST ISSUE 12 Ι 13 In its Order of Remand, page 4, paragraph III, Conclusions of 14 Law, sub 1, lines 4-7, the Court found that: 15 The decision of the Shoreline Hearings Board relating to 16 the preference for aquaculture, obstruction of gillnet fishing, navigation impact, and safe harbor use is clearly 17 erroneous and is not supported by substantial evidence. (emphasis added). 18 Accordingly, the Court ordered (page 4, lines 18-22): 19 This case is remanded to the Shoreline Hearings Board 20 for further evidentiary proceedings on the following issues: Whether there is a preference within the 21 Shoreline Management Act for aquaculture as against unobstructed open water navigational uses (emphasis 22 added), b........ 23 . 24 25

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Subsequently, at the initiation of and by agreement of the

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (3) SHB NO. 86-22

Finding of Fact, page 7, par. VIII, Navigation; and, 1 2 subparagraph 1, Tow Boats and Ocean Shipping; subparagraph 2, Gillnet Fishing; and 3 subparagraph 3, Recreational Boating; 4 and the resulting Conclusions of Law. 5 6 The Board further concludes, after reviewing its original 7 decision, that nowhere did the Board indicate or imply that 8 aquaculture should, in all cases, take preference over any or all 9 other water dependent activities to the exclusion or significant 10 detriment of those other uses. On the contrary, on page 13, lines 11 12-20, the Board very specifically indicated that its decision therein 12 was limited to the facts of this case: 13 The proposed development is consistent with the 14 preferences of the KCSMP and SMA for shorelines of state wide significance. The proposal recognizes state wide over 15 local interest by contributing to the statewide and worldwide production of food. It largely preserves the 16 natural character of the shoreline and would result in the long term benefit of food production with minimal 17 environmental impact. Under these circumstances, aquaculture is a desired and preferred water-dependent 18 use of this Puget Sound shoreline of state wide significance. (emphasis added). 19 20 VI 21 This result is consistent with our findings in Cruver v. San Juan 22 County and Webb, SHB 202 (1976) at 9: 23 We note that aquaculture, being water dependent, is a preferred use of the shoreline in question under RCW 90.58 2425

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (5) SHB NO. 86-22

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...This is not to say that this Board is now giving blanket approval to all shoreline aquaculture projects. But we are saying firmly that in (a) <u>specific instance</u> with environmental safeguards - as we find in the instant matter -aquaculture is a desired and preferred water-dependent use of the shoreline. (emphasis added).

VII

In summary, no other evidence having been produced as to the first issue remanded to us by the Court, we reaffirm our original opinion. We also conclude that the benefits of the food to be produced by the proposed project outweigh the minimal effects the project might have on other water uses and that the proposal is consistent with the requirements of 90.58 RCW and the Kitsap County Shoreline Management Master Plan Use Regulations for Aquaculture.

FINDINGS OF FACT - SECOND ISSUE

VIII

The second issue remanded to the Board by the Court for further evidentiary hearing was:

Whether the financial resources of Mark Holland d/b/a Puget Sound Aquaculture are sufficient to sustain and finance this experimental project for its initial two year period.

IX

Both sides were prepared to discuss Holland's financial obligations and resources for the initial five (5) year period of operations. The Board, pursuant to the Court's Order, limited evidence and discussion to the first two years only.

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (6) SHB NO. 86-22

1	Α				
2	Holland, after consulting with multiple suppliers, estimates his				
3	first year expenses to be (exhibit A 21):				
4	<u>Capital Expenses</u> <u>Item(s)</u> <u>Cost</u>				
5	1 Netpen \$ 6,700 1 Workboat \$15,000				
6	1 Feed pump system \$ 800 1 Waste pump system \$ 1,300				
7	1 Air Compressor & Volume Tank\$ 1,200 1 Powerplant (10 H.P. Diesel) \$ 3,000				
8	Test Instruments \$ 2,000 4 Buoys \$ 1,200				
9	Diving Gear \$ 1,500 4 Dip nets \$ 200				
10	Tools \$ 1,000				
11	Total Capital Expenses \$33,900				
12	Operating Expenses				
13	Salmon Eggs (20,000 @ \$.08/each) \$ 1,600 Fuel \$ 200				
14	Office (in residence) \$ 200 Testing \$ 300				
15	Performance Bond \$ 5,000				
16	Total Operating Expenses \$ 7,300 (No labor expenses are included above because Holland				
17	will be doing the necessary work himself; no interest payments are included because Holland will not have to				
18	borrow money the first year.) First year total expenses\$41,200 to which Holland				
19	added 15% (\$6,180) as a contingency reserve to cover unknown or unforeseen expenses for a grand total of \$47,380.				
20					
21	XI				
22	The purpose of the purchase of 20,000 salmon eggs was to produce				
23	smolt for introduction to net pens in the second year. However,				
24 25					
25 26	-				
27	FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (7)				
	SHB NO. 86-22				

testimony established that, since it is now possible to purchase smolt in varying quantities and sizes, such a purchase of smolt in the second year would make the purchase of the salmon eggs in the first year unnecessary. This would result in a reduction in first year expenses by \$1,600 resulting in a total expenditure of \$39,600 plus a 15% contingency reserve of \$5940 for a grand total of \$45,540, \$1,840 less than his original projection.

XII

The first year of operations will be spent in building, testing, and setting up the operation of the project. No profits will be realized during that first year.

XIII

Holland testified that he would be able to sustain his first year expenses without borrowing money. He also testified that, while he does not know his total monetary worth at this time, his resources include:

\$42,000 per year salary from his job as an engineer with the Boeing Company in which he will continue during the first two years of operation of the project. This salary income will be used to support himself and his family, and none of it will be used for the project.

One bank account of an amount somewhere between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (8) SHB NO. 86-22

Property in Kitsap County assessed at \$80,000 which he purchased 1 for \$45,500 plus closing costs and for which he owes his father 2 approximately \$48,000 (the only debt he now owes) leaving him a 3 possible net worth of \$32,000 in the \$80,000 property. 4 Debentures totaling approximately \$24,000. 5 Mutual funds with Boeing worth \$50,000, which would be collateral 6 for loans he may incur relative to the project. 7 Holland at present lives in Burien but does not own his residence. 8 XIV 9 Summing up the possible sources of funds from the above, without 10 considering his Boeing income, Holland's total resources available to 11 support the project in the first year of operation without borrowing 12 money are: 13 Bank account \$10,000 (minimum). 14 Kitsap property \$32,000 Debentures \$24,000 15 Mutual funds \$50,000 Total \$116,000 16 17 XV 18 Holland testified that his second year expenses would be: 19 Capital Expenses: \$20,100 (Total Cap. Expenses) 3 Netpens 20 Operating Expenses Salmon eggs \$ 1,600 21 \$ 3,000 Fuel Office 300 22 Ś 500 Testing Liability, Property, Fish 23 24 25 26 FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (9)

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SHB NO. 86-22

Mortality Insurance \$ 1,500 1 Smolts \$20,000 Smolt Transport and Transfer \$ 1,500 2 Feed (15,000 lbs. @\$.40/lb.) \$ 6,000 Medication 800 3 Maintenance \$ 500 \$ 5,000 Salaries 4 Total Operating Expenses --- \$ 40,700 5 Second year total expenses -- \$60,800 plus a 15% contingency reserve of \$9,120 for a grand 6 total of \$69,920 7 XVI 8 The above figures, as in the first year, could be reduced by the 9 direct purchase of smolts (already included above) and the elimination 10 of the purchase of eggs (\$1,600) resulting in total expenses of 11 \$59,200 with a 15% contingency reserve of \$8,880 for a grand total of 12 \$68,080, a reduction of \$1,840. 13 IIVX 14 Holland testified that it will be necessary for him to obtain 15 money from other sources to maintain the second year operation. 16 source possibilities include: 17 Money from his father or other private investors, either as a 18 loan or as capital investment to be repaid from future 19 profits. 20 Bank loans which would be repaid with interest over the second 21 and subsequent years. 22 23 24 25 26

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FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT,

SHB NO. 86-22

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND

A bank equity loan based on a percentage of his equity in a 1 2 home which he may build with his salary money from Boeing, such a loan being at a lower rate of interest than a 3 such as noted above.

Holland testified that his main source for obtaining necessary supplementary funds would be money from his father, by loan, as capital investment repayable from future profits, or as collateral for a bank loan.

XVIII

Combining first and second year expenses (\$45,540 plus \$68,080), the total for the two years is \$113,620. His monetary resources are \$116,000.

XIX

Through the testimony of Mr. Robert Beckham, a CPA, respondents questioned the completeness of Holland's schedule of first and second year costs and alleged that they should have included:

- \$20,000 for the cost of smolt in the first year. We do not find this to be a legitimate addition because, as discussed above, smolt would not have to be purchased until the second year.
- Unspecified additional money for salaries in both years. testified that he will do all the labor the first year and that labor hours in the second year would be minimal and would be paid on an hourly basis for which the scheduled \$5,000 should be adequate.

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND SHB NO. 86-22

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Capital gains tax on the sale of a house in 1991. This would not be a legitimate addition to the cost of doing business but could be an additional liablility affecting his resources the first year. However, no testimony was produced either as to the amount of tax owed, if any, or that it could not be met through Holland's Boeing salary.

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Through exhibit R-42 which was prepared by Mr. Beckham, respondents introduced further factors which, allegedly, would have seriously impeached Mr. Holland's estimate of costs. The exhibit was based on five (5) assumptions which we will discuss individually:

- Assumption: Allowance of 15% for anticipated but unknown expenses is sufficient to cover all unlisted expenses except interest.
 - <u>Discussion</u>: This constitutes an admission that the 15% contingency reserve is adequate since the "interest" assumption is not valid. (see 2. below).
- 2. <u>Assumption</u>: All capital outlays for the first three (sic) years come from borrowed funds and the cost of borrowing is 12%.

<u>Discussion</u>: Holland testified that there would be no borrowing for the project during the first year and that for the second year necessary monies could be obtained as

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (12) SHB NO. 86-22

capital investments from private investors to be repaid out 1 2 of future profits. We do not find the inclusion of interest payments 3 a valid assumption. 4 Assumption: Mr. Holland can earn \$40,000 (sic) per year at 3. 5 his present job. He works at that job for the first 6 one-half year and then quits his present job to devote full 7 time to the netpen project. 8 Discussion: There was no evidence to rebut Holland's 9 testimony that he will continue to work at his Boeing job 10 at \$42,000 per year during the first two years of the 11 project. 12 We do not find the assumption valid. 13 4. Assumption: Mr. Holland has no other source of personal 14 income. After quitting his job to devote full time to the 15 salmon operation, he must borrow funds to live on; cost of 16 borrowing is 12%. 17 Discussion: The validity of this assumption as to the 18 first two years is negated by his testimony that he will 19 continue to work the first two years. (number 3. above). 20 The fifth assumption is directed to income at the end of 5. 21 the third year of operation and is, therefore, not relevant 22 to the two year remand issue. 23 24 25 26 FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT,

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (13) SHB NO. 86-22

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2	Any Conclusion of Law which is deemed a Finding of Fact is hereby
3	adopted as such. From these Findings of Fact, the Board comes to these
4	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW - SECOND ISSUE
5	A. Jurisdiction of the Shorelines Hearings Board
6	XXII
7	The jurisdiction of the Shorelines Hearings Board is defined by
8	statute:
9	RCW 90.58.180(1):
10	Any person aggrieved by the granting, denying, or rescinding of a permit on shorelines of the state
11	<pre>pursuant to RCW 90.58.140 may seek review from the shorelines hearings board(emphasis added); and, RCW 90.58.140(2):</pre>
12	A permit shall be granted:
13	(a) (b)only when the development proposed is
14	consistent with the applicable master program and the provisions of chapter 90.58 RCW.
15	XXIII
16	Accordingly, we review this proposed development under those

Accordingly, we review this proposed development under those criteria which are defined in 90.58 RCW and in the Kitsap County Shoreline Management Master Program (KCSMMP). Nowhere in those two documents do we find financial responsibility of the applicant defined or even implied as a criterion for issuance or denial of a shorelines permit.

XXIV

We conclude that the Shorelines Hearings Board does not have statutory subject matter jurisdiction to consider the second (financial capability) issue remanded to us.

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (14) SHB NO. 86-22

B. New Issues in the Superior Court

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Chapter 461-08 WAC governs the hearings practices and procedures of the Shorelines Hearings Board. More specifically, WAC 461-08-120 requires that a prehearing conference "shall be held in every case...(unless otherwise ordered by the chairman)", and WAC 461-08-140 provides that:

(The resulting prehearing order) shall include the agreements of the parties concerning issues (and that the prehearing order) shall control the subsequent course of the proceedings unless modified for good cause by subsequent order.

Consequently, at the subsequent formal hearing, the parties are limited to those issues only which are stated in the Board's prehearing order or subsequent modification thereof.

XXVI

A review of the record shows that a prehearing conference was held in this matter on August 12, 1986, that a Pre-Hearing Order was issued by the Board on September 18, 1986, that nowhere under paragraph II, ISSUES, (misnumbered I), of that document are Holland's financial resources raised as an issue, that paragraph X of that document states specifically that "The above statement of issues (Part II) shall control the subsequent course of these proceedings unless modified for good cause by subsequent order of this Board", and that no such subsequent modifying order was ever issued.

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (15) SHB NO. 86-22

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The issue of Holland's financial resources was not one of the issues defined by our prehearing order and was and is, therefore, precluded from consideration at our formal hearings. Our 1987 decision, SHB No. 86-22, reflects that limitation; nowhere is there a discussion of financial responsibility under either the Findings of Fact, the Conclusions of Law, nor the Order. Holland's financial resources were not an issue in the Board's formal hearing in this matter in December of 1986.

IIIVXX

While our 1987 decision does discuss <u>Practicality</u> in paragraph IX (somehow translated to "feasibility" in the Remand Order)
"practicality" refers to "something that appears to be capable of being put into effect" (Webster's New World Dictionary, 1972, where there is no reference to or consideration of financial capability).

From the Board's language, "The proposal has the potential for success if operated carefully", it is obvious that the Board was referring to the operational aspects of the project, not the financial aspects.

XXIX

It is an established rule in Washington courts that:

An issue not raised in a contested (administrative) case proceeding may not be raised for the first time upon superior court review of the record. <u>Kitsap County v. Natural Resources</u>, 99 Wn.2d 386 (1983) (numerous cites omitted).

FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (16) SHB NO. 86-22

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However, there is an exception to the above rule. The raising of the jurisdictional questions of sub-sections A and B above at this time in administrative review proceedings is supported by In Re Saltis, 94 Wn.2d 889 (1980) at 893:

> The question of superior court subject matter jurisdiction may be raised at any time.

Furthermore, WAC 461-08-075 provides that, as in this matter,

...the board may sua sponte raise the jurisdictional issue.

IXXX

Because the issue of Holland's financial resources was not raised either at the Board's prehearing conference nor heard or considered at the formal hearings, we conclude that the issue was improperly raised by respondents in the Superior Court review and should be precluded from the Court's consideration on jurisdictional grounds.

C. Holland's Financial Resources

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If, however, the Board's jurisdiction did extend to Holland's financial resources, we would conclude that he has met his burden of proof in demonstrating his financial capability to maintain his proposed project for the first two years of operation.

Respondent's own testimony (XX,1 above) confirms Holland's

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FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (17)SHB NO. 86-22

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financial capability for the first year and removes that as an issue. Furthermore, we note from our Findings of Fact that his anticipated expenses (\$45,540) are more than met by his financial resources (\$116,000). We conclude that his financial resources are adequate to cover his first year operation.

IIIXXX

Holland testified that outside financial help would be necessary for the second year of operation, and it is here that the Board must balance, not facts, but suppositions. We are put into the position of trying to predict the economic fate of a private business much as expert economists (so often unsuccessfully) try to predict the economic future of the nation.

XXXIV

Holland, for instance, assumes that his 15% contingency reserve will be adequate to meet unexpected expenses. Respondent County, in its Hearing Brief on Remand at page 17, argues that Appellant "blithely" asserts that his 15% fund is adequate and then the County proceeds just as "blithely" to name a number of events which could, if they happened, result in the fund being inadequate. These are not facts. They are suppositions which carry no more weight than would an assumption that Holland might, during the two years, inherit or win a substantial sum which would make this an academic issue.

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FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (18) SHB NO. 86-22 VXXX

judgements where, as in this case, a project is subject to the

favorable or unfavorable vagaries and vicissitudes of the business

a loan if he applies for one in the second year. Nor can we know

whether Holland's father will or will not be able to assist his son

financially in the future as, according to Holland's testimony, he is

world. We cannot know whether any bank will or will not give Holland

We recite the above only to point out the difficulties of making

two years of operation.

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FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (19) SHB NO. 86-22

We can only balance the evidentiary facts as they now stand in weighing the suppositions of the parties as to the future, and we conclude, that in the absence of persuasive rebuttal testimony from respondents, Holland has met his burden of proof and that he has the financial resources, as it appears now, to meet the costs of the first

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We note that the KCSMMP, Part 8 - Appendicies, section IV,

<u>Duration of Permits</u>, provides that "Construction or substantial

progress toward construction of a project for which a permit has been

granted ... must be undertaken within two years after the approval of

the ... permit". If Holland, because of financial considerations, is

unable to perform substantially within the two year period, the County

could then take appropriate action.

The Board also notes that this two year requirement is a post permit control which cannot, as in this case, be translated into a pre permit requirement.

IIVXXX

We also note that, if Holland's project fails during the first two years of operation because of financial difficulties or for any other reason, only he (and possibly his creditors) will be harmed. There will be no damage to the environment when and if his project is dismantled properly, and the respondents, rather than being harmed, will have achieved by attrition what this Board concludes they should not achieve by the legal process of permit denial at this time.

IIIVXXX

In summary, we conclude that this Board does not have jurisdiction to decide the second (financial resources) issue remanded to us, that the Court does not have jurisdiction to decide the financial resource issue since it was not an issue at the Board's hearing, and that, if the Board did have jurisdiction to make such a decision, Holland has the financial resources to sustain the first two years of operation of his proposed project.

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Any Finding of Fact which is deemed a Conclusion of Law is hereby adopted as such. From these Conclusions of Law the Board enters this

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FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (20)SHB NO. 86-22

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1	ORDER
2	The Board's ORDER of SHB No. 86-22, dated July 7, 1987, is
3	affirmed, adopted, and restated herein by reference in its entirety.
4	DONE this 13 th day of Lucust, 1992.
5	
6	SHORELINES HEARINGS BOARD
7	Days & Sinner
8	HAROLD S. ZIMMERMAN, Chairman
9	antho 1 moloo,
10	ANNETTE S. McGEE, Member
11	Care Walkenboom
12	DAVE WØLFENBARGER Member
13	Dean Williamson
14	O'DEAN WILLIAMSON, Member
15	- Dulmelta
16	JOHN H. BUCKWALTER Administrative Law Judge
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25	FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER ON REMAND (22)
26	SHB NO. 86-22

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BEFORE THE SHORELINES HEARINGS BOARD 1 STATE OF WASHINGTON 2 IN THE MATTER OF a 3 Shorelines Substantial Development Permit denied by Kitsap County to 4 Mark Holland, 5 MARK HOLLAND, d/b/a PUGET -SOUND AQUACULTURE 6 SHB No. 86-22 Appellant, 7 FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT v. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND KITSAP COUNTY, ORDER 9 Respondent, 10 and 11 YUKON HARBOR CONCERNED CITIZENS, 12 Intervenor - Respondent.)

THIS MATTER, the request for review of a denial of a shoreline permit for development of a salmon net pen proposal, came on for hearing before the Shoreline Hearings Board, Lawrence J. Faulk, Chairman and Wick Dufford, Judith A. Bendor, Nancy Burnett, Les Eldridge and Rod M. Kerslake, Members, convened at Port Orchard and Lacey, Washington on December 10, 11, and 12, 1986, and February 3, and 4, 1987. Administrative Appeals Judge William A. Harrison presided.

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Appellant was represented by his attorneys, David A. Bateman and John E. Woodring. Respondent Kitsap County was represented by Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Scott M. Missall. Yukon Harbor Concerned Citizens were represented by their attorney, William M. Crawford. Reporter Gene Barker provided reporting services.

Witnesses were sworn and testified. Exhibits were examined. From testimony heard and exhibits examined, the Shorlines Hearings Board makes these

FINDINGS OF FACT

I.

This matter arises in Kitsap County within Yukon Harbor and concerns a proposal for rearing Atlantic salmon in net pens. Yukon Harbor is on the mainland shore of Kitsap County in the vicinity of Blake Island.

II.

On November 19, 1985, appellant, Mark Holland, applied to Kitsap County for a shoreline substantial development permit. The proposed development consists of 10 salmon net pens to be anchored in 50 feet of water (MLLW), some 3/4 of a mile from shore. The pens are designed to be kept at least 30 feet below the surface of the water, except when raised for grading or harvesting the salmon. This feature of rearing salmon in submerged pens distinguishes the proposal from the bulk of established practice in which the pens remain at the surface.

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Mr. Holland is an experienced underwater diver who proposes to personally tend the salmon. Feeding would be done underwater by pumping the feed through a hand held hose. A system of 31 anchors, each weighing 1000 lbs, would secure the net pens. The buoyancy of the pens together with lines and pulleys would allow the pens to be raised for harvesting. Although the salmon would be slaughtered in a boat at the pen-site, both the fish flesh and waste would be transported in the boat to fish processing facilities in King County. Mr. Holland now resides in King County and proposes to commute by boat from Seattle to the pen site. It is anticipated that in 2 years the pens would reach maximum production of 80,000 pounds of salmon per year. At that point Mr. Holland intends to move to Port Orchard in Kitsap County and continue the operations from there.

III.

On January 8, 1986, Kitsap County, as lead agency, issued a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) for the proposal under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW. Copies of the DNS were sent to the Washington State Department of Ecology and Department of Fisheries, among others. The DNS was neither withdrawn by Kitsap County as lead agency nor did any other agency assume lead agency status to contravene the DNS.

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SHB NO. 86-22 FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER On March 7, 1986, the Department of Fisheries granted a Hydraulic

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contain significant amounts of eelgrass or geoducks in commercially

Project Approval to appellant to undertake the proposed net pen

project. The sea bed beneath the site was surveyed. It did not

v.

On April 21, 1986, the Kitsap County Board of County Commissioners denied the appellant's shoreline permit application. Appellant appeals from this denial. His request for review was filed here on May 22, 1986.

VI.

The evidence before us can be classified into four major subject headings. These are: The proposed development's 1) biological effect, 2) effect on navigation, 3) practicality and 4) aesthetic effect. We now turn our consideration to each of these.

VII.

Biological Effect. There are five general areas of biological concern that arise from the proposal:

1. Water Quality. The proposed development would produce waste consisting of fish feces and unconsumed feed. Since the appellant proposes to use dry feed, which minimizes food waste, approximately

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56,000 pounds of total waste will be produced yearly. This would form 1 a sediment beneath the nets and result in the release of nutrients and consumption of dissolved oxygen. The concentrations of nutrients and 3 biological oxygen demand (BOD) in mariculture are very dilute. 4 Dilution is aided in this case by a mean water velocity of .21 knots 5 which tends to counter the effect of nutrient and BOD loading through 6 flushing. No discharge of heavy metals will occur. Degradation of 7 water quality beyond the culture structure is unlikely. Because the 8 pens are only 5 feet off the bottom when submerged, concern was 9 expressed during the circulation of the DNS and in the hearing before 10 us that wastes will unacceptably accumulate. The appellant responded 11 by agreeing to collect sediment in tarps suspended below the nets and 12 by agreeing to pump it periodically into deeper water. Moreover, 13 appellant is also willing to monitor water quality adjacent to the proposed pens. 15

2. Antibiotics. To combat bacteria the antibiotic tetracycline, or oxytetracycline, would be mixed with the fish feed. This is highly water soluable and breaks down in 10-20 days. Antibiotics would be used to treat fish disease, and not to prevent the outbreak of disease. The possible entry of this antibiotic into the environmental food chain from this proposal is not likely to have any adverse effect upon human health. However, more data on the possible future effects of antibiotics in the aquatic environment is merited. See Weston, supra, at pp. 97-99 and 128-129.

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transmitted to wild populations of fish. The bacterial diseases of salmon are not transmissable to humans. The introduction of the proposed development is not likely to increase the pre-exising threat of disease.

Disease in pen reared salmon is not likely to be

- 4. Escapement. The proposed development involves Atlantic salmon which, in the event of escape from the pens, cannot interbreed with Pacific salmon as the Atlantics are a different genus and species. Attempts to purposely establish Atlantic salmon populations in the northwest have resulted in failure. It is therefore unlikely that escaped Atlantic salmon would become established or cause a significant competitive threat to native salmon or steelhead.
- 5. Estuary. Respondents urge that concerns about water quality, antibiotics, disease and escapement are amplified due to the proposal's location in the estuary of Curley Creek. However, the proposal is not within that estuary. Coastal Zone Atlas of Washington, Volume 10 p. KS17F (Department of Ecology, 1979). Moreover, the proposed development is not likely to have any adverse effect upon the estuary.

In summary, the proposed development is not likely to have any significant, adverse, biological effect upon the environment.

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Navigation. The effect of the proposed development upon navigation must be viewed with an understanding of the nature of the proposal and the extent of surrounding waters. As to surrounding waters, Yukon Harbor comprises some 3,500 acres. The nature of the proposal is such that the pens, when at the surface, would occupy 1/2 acre of the Harbor. Yet, most often, the pens will be submerged. only surface manifestation of the proposal would then be the four permanent marker buoys (one on each corner of the site) bearing Coast Guard approved lighting. There are three traditional types of navigation in Yukon Harbor which have been addressed by the parties:

Tow Boats and Ocean Shipping. Respondents point out that Yukon Harbor is used by tow boats pulling barges, that the Harbor is a temporary anchorage for ocean shipping waiting to enter Elliott Bay and that the Harbor is a refuge to all shipping during storms. Assuming, however, that the Coast Guard approved lights of the proposal did not prevent these vessels from entering the unattended pen site, the gravest incident which is likely to occur would be that the vessel would bump into one or more of the four rubber light buoys. These buoys would be anchored independently of the pens so that even pulling one loose would not dislodge the pens. No damage to the vessel would be likely.

- 2. Gillnet Fishing. Gillnet fishing with its deep running nets would potentially foul on the submerged pens. The well marked location of the pen site should provide adequate warning within an area the size of Yukon Harbor. Gillnet fishing has taken place about nine times in the past year, within Yukon Harbor, by the non-treaty fishing fleet. This corresponded to the nine days of opportunity allowed by regulations. The Suguamish Tribe indicated in correspondence to Kitsap County that their fishing fleet does not presently use the site for gillnetting.
- 3. Recreational Boating. The proposed development poses no substantial interference with recreational boating. It would also provide reasonable navigation access to water front property, including Blake Island as well as the mainland shore.

In summary, the proposed development would not significantly hamper traditional navigation within Yukon Harbor.

IX.

Practicality. The proposed, year-around, submerged salmon net pens are a new concept. The project presents logistical challenges to the operator, Mr. Holland. An established market exists for the sale of salmon like those which the proposal would produce. The proposal has the potential for success if operated carefully. Moreover, it could easily be dismantled and its impacts, in effect, erased from the environment if not successful.

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Aesthetics. The visual presence of the proposed development would be unobtrusive when viewed from shore. During periods when the pens are at the surface, a 30 foot work boat would tend the pens and add little to the view from shore 3/4 of a mile away. When the pens are submerged the proposal would be out of sight altogether excepting at night when the four navigation lights would be visible. Those lights would not result in material harm to the view from shore. The proposal involves no significant noise. There would be no significant, adverse, aesthetic effect from the proposal.

XI.

The Kitsap County Shoreline Management Master Program (KCSMP) includes "Use Activity Regulations" which are directly supportive of the adopted policies for each environment and use activity. KCSMP p.7-2. Among these are Use Activity Regulations for Aquaculture. KCSMP pp. 7-5 and 7-6. These are set forth as follows:

II. AQUACULTURE

DEFINITION: Aquaculture (popularly known as fish farming) is the culture or farming of food fish, shell fish, or other aquatic plants and animals for commercial and recreational purposes.

POLICY: Aquaculture should be encouraged in Kitsap County and so located to be compatible with navigation and upland use.

REGULATIONS:

A. Environments:

1. Aquaculture is permitted in the Urban, Semi-Rural, Rural and Conservancy Environments. Aquaculture shall be permitted in the Natural Environment subject to obtaining a Shorelines conditional Use Permit, except no facilities associated with aquaculture shall be allowed on the land in a Natural Environment.

B. General Regulations

- Aquacultural activities shall be located so as to provide reasonable navigations access to waterfron property owners.
- Aquacultural structures shall be placed, when practicable, so as to minimize interference with surface navigation.
- 3. Aquacultural development shall be designed and constructed to harmonize insofar as possible with the local environment, and shall be maintained in a neat and orderly manner.
- 4. Aquacultural development shall make reasonable provisions to control nuisance factors such as noise or odor.
- 5. Aquacultural wastes shall be disposed of in a manner that will prevent degradation of associated upland, inland, away from the shoreline proper, when practicable.
- 6. Structures or activities associated with aquaculture that are not shoreline dependent shall be located inland, away from the shoreline proper.
- 7. Equipment, structures and material shall not be abandoned in the shoreline or wetland area.

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- 8. Aquaculture facilities or structures which are hazards to navigation shall be suitably marked for day and night visibility.
- 9. Special precautionary measures shall be taken to minimize the risk of oil or other toxic materials from entering the water or shoreline area.
- 10. Mechanical and/or hydraulic clam harvesting opertions, which use a hgydraulic harvester or similar floating equipment, shall be required to obtain a Substantial Development Permit. Such a permit shall only be issued if the applicant can show that the proposed operation will not harm fish or shellfish resources, other than those being harvested; will not lead to increase in trubidity of siltation of surrounding property; will be conducted so as to immediately fill back any trenches it digs up to a depth not to exceed three inches; and noise of the proposed operation does not unduly disturb the residents of nearby areas.

XII.

Among the policies of the KCSMP are "Natural Systems Policies" within which no. 9, on p. 5-2, requires consideration of the natural systems regulation of the Department of Ecology. Respondent's cite WAC 173-16-050 (5) of those regulations which calls for close scrutiny for all plans for development in estuaries. The KCSMP also contains principles and development guidelines for shorelines of state wide The proposed development would be in the semi-rural significance. environment within a shoreline of statewide significance. Shoreline Environmental Designation Map (Appendix III) and paragraph 7 of p. 6-3.

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adopted as such. From these Findings of Fact, the Board, comes to

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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The issues in this matter concern the consistency of the proposed development with the Kitsap County Shoreline Master Program (KCSMP) and the Shoreline Management Act (SMA), chapter 90.58 RCW.

II.

The proposed development is "aquaculture" as defined in the KCSMP at p. 7-5 (See Finding of Fact XI, above). The proposed develoment is not "commercial" as defined in the KCSMP at p. 7-10. We hold, thereby, that the specific definition takes precedence over the general. In further support of our conclusion we note that "aquaculture" as presently defined in the 1977 version of the KCSMP does not require a conditional use permit; whereas, in the prior, 1976, version of the KCSMP it did. See Department of Natural Resources and Francklyn v. Kitsap County SHB No. 78-37 (1980). would therefore be contrary to the apparent intent of these amendments to deem aquacultural projects "commercial" as the latter still requires a conditional use permit. KCSMP, Shoreline Environmental Compatibility Chart, p. 7-3. Review under the aquaculture portion of the KCSMP is therefore appropirate.

III.

The proposed development is consistent with the aquaculture policy of the KCSMP at pp. 7-5. (See Finding of Fact XI, above). It is so located as to be compatible with navigation and upland use, and is a permitted use.

VI.

The proposed development is neither in an estuary nor does it threaten an estuary. It is consistent with the Natural systems Policies of the KCSMP at p. 5-2 and with the regulation relating to estuaries, WAC 173-16-050 (5).

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The proposed development is consistent with the preferences of the KCSMP and SMA for shorelines of state wide significance. The proposal recognizes state wide over local interest by contributing to the statewide and worldwide production of food. It largely preserves the natural character of the shoreline and would result in the long term benefit of food production with minimal environmental impact. Under these circumstances, aquaculture is a desired and preferred water-dependent use of this Puget Sound shoreline of state wide significance.

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The proposed development meets the requirements of both the Shoreline Management Act and Kitsap County Shoreline Master Program provided that the following conditions are imposed:

- 1. That the shoreline substantial development permit shall expire five years from issuance. A new permit shall be required to continue operations.
- That the maximum salmon production shall be 80,000 pounds per year.
- 3. That tarps suspended from the pens shall be used to collect sediment, and sediment will be pumped from the tarps to deep water.
- 4. That when fish are fed, only dry feed shall be used.
- That antibiotics shall only be used to treat fish disease, and not to prevent the outbreak of disease.
- 6. That the development shall have coverage for \$10,000 minimum liability insurance and \$5,000 minimum performance bond (this requirement may be met through meeting the requirements of other government agencies).
- That the fish slaughter waste shall be disposed of at on-shore processing facilities.
- 8. That no methods shall be used to control predators which has the potential to, or does in fact, injure them.
- 9. That a person residing near Yukon Harbor shall be designated by notice to Kitsap County as an agent of the permittee. That person shall furnish day and evening telephone numbers and shall be reliably available when called.

10. That, for possible future use, the permittee shall monitor water quality and antibiotics under a method approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology. The monitoring results shall be presented to Kitsap County, the State Department of Ecology the State Department of Fisheries, and the State Department of Natural Resources.

VII.

Lastly, respondents have urged that appellant may not offer to accept additional conditions on his proposal during the hearings before us. The conditions enumerated at Conclusion of Law VI, above, were agreed by appellant in part. However, the greater consideration is that each condition is supported by the evidence before us, each is necessary to conform the proposal with the master program and Act, and all the conditions taken together do not expand the scope of the The case of Hayes v. Yount, 87 Wn. 2d 280, 291 (1976) cited by respondents is distinguishable in that the additional conditions sought there would have changed the essence of the proposal. would often be the case where, as in Hayes, the proposal's essence is See, e.g. Lassiter v. Kitsap County, et. al SHB vague to begin with. No. 86-23 (1986). We are cognizant of the mischief which would result if vague proposals were not made definite until appeal before us, or if definite proposals were reformed beyond their original scope during appeal before us. None of that is this case. Rather, we are here

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conditioning a definite proposal within the confines of its original
scope. This is our long standing practice and one which has been
useful in arriving at a final and correct resolution of controversy.
Such a practice has been employed and affirmed on review in San Juan
County v. Natural Resources, 28 Wn. App 796, 800 (1981) and Kitsap
County v. State 107, Wn.2d 801 (1987). A shoreline permit for the
proposal should issue with the conditions which we impose above.
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Any Finding of Fact which is deemed a Conclusion of Law is hereby

adopted as such.

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FINAL FINDINGS OF FACT

WILLIAM A. HARRISON

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW AND ORDER

Administrative Appeals Judge

from these Conclusions of Law the Board enters this

ORDER

The action of Kitsap County is reversed, and this matter is remanded to Kitsap County for issuance of a shoreline substantial development permit containing the conditions enumerated in Conclusion of Law VI hereof.

DONE at Lacey, Washington this 17th day of July . 1987.

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WICK DUFFORD, Member

OUDITH A. BENDOR, Member

NANCY BURNETT, Member

LES ELDRIDGE, Member

RODNEY M. KERSLAKE, Member

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